

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 3. These sheets, which include Figures 1, 2 and 3, replace the original sheets including Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1-2 without introducing new matter or raising new issues; and cancels Claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the Drawings and to Claims 1-9 because of informalities. Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Klein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,756,826, herein “Klein”). Claims 2-3 and 5-9 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, independent Claim 1 is amended to recite all the features of dependent Claim 6. Consequently, Claim 6 is cancelled.

To correct correspondence between Applicant’s Figures 2-3 and the specification, the specification is amended at pages 8-9 and Figure 3 is amended to delete the latch circuit 26. In particular, in order to create the timing of the signals shown in Figure 4, only one latch circuit 27 is required. Since the changes applied to Figure 3 find non-limiting support in Applicant’s Figure 4, and the changes merely delete latch circuit 26 from Figure 3 and the relevant passages in the specification, the changes find non-limiting support in the disclosure as originally filed.

In response to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a Letter Submitting Drawing Sheets along with 2 Replacement Sheets for Figures 1 and 3 adding the ground to the node with the emitter of the MOS-type device (Figures 1 and 3), and connecting the floating terminal of the switch SWoff1 with the node of the emitter of the MOS device

(Figure 1). Since these features are inherent from Applicant's disclosure, these changes are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

In response to the objections to the claims, Claims 1-2 are amended to correct the noted informalities. In particular, Claim 1 is amended to recite "a second switch configured to discharge a gate capacitance by a discharge current," and Claim 2 is amended to recite "the semiconductor apparatus further comprising" and "a second turn-on operation for turning on said MOS-type device," as suggested by the outstanding Office Action.¹ In light of the amendments to Claims 1-2, Applicant respectfully submits that no more informalities were found in the remaining dependent Claims 3-9. The amendments to Claims 1-2 are also only formal in nature and therefore do not raise any questions of new matter and also do not raise new issues that were not previously considered by the Examiner.

The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116, which after Final Rejection permits entry of amendments canceling rejected claims or complying with requirements of form set forth in a previous Office Action. As the present amendment merely includes the features of allowable Claim 6 into independent Claim 1, cancels Claim 6, and amends Claims 1-2 as suggested in the outstanding Office Action, it is respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-5 and 7-9 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

¹ See the outstanding Office Action at page 3, lines 4-7.

Respectfully submitted,

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